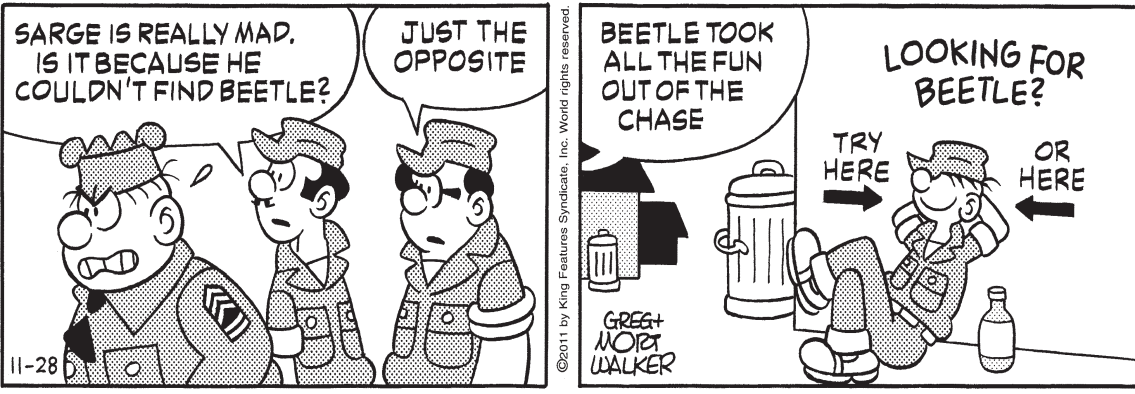


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



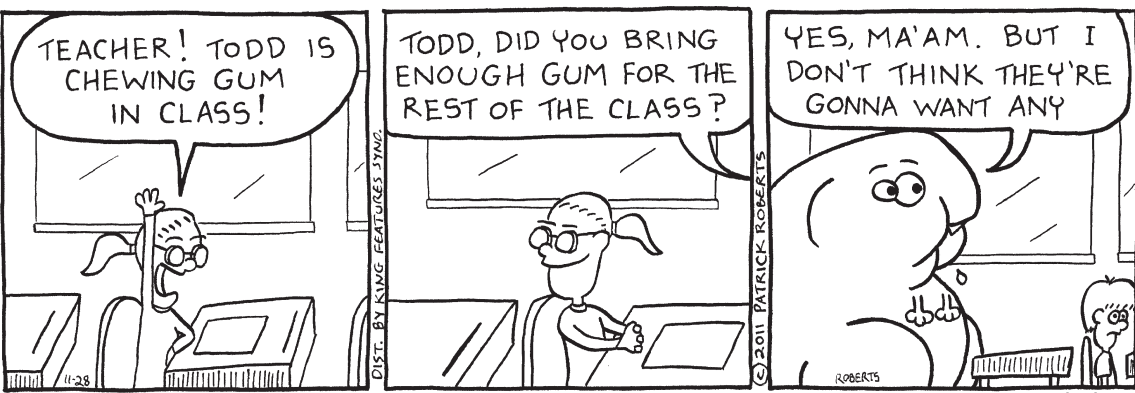
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



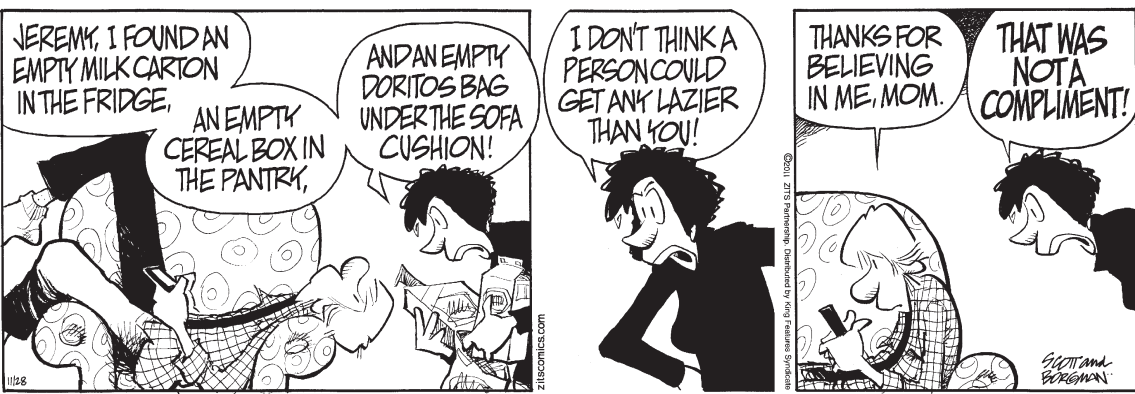
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Expensive gifts not appreciated

Dear Dr. Brothers: I like to bargain-hunt and do my clothes shopping at charity thrift stores. We are pinching pennies and I don't mind wearing secondhand clothes. But my husband insists on buying me fancy brand-name presents. I consider it a waste of money, and I have told him so. How do I get him to understand? — K.S.

Dear K.S.: You both have good motives, so it is hard to say it's a black-and-white case. There's no clear right or wrong answer that would point to your way of clothing yourself being the best and his being faulty. Obviously you are getting more bang for your buck by shopping at thrift stores. He may be providing clothes that are in style and made to last a long time — an investment. So technically, you could call it a draw. But we aren't just talking about dueling shopping carts here. There's more in play when a husband reaches out to give his wife frequent nice gifts.

He is telling you a couple of things. One, he loves you and thinks you are worth buying nice things for. And despite your financial situation, he wants to prove he still can provide for his wife. I think you may be overlooking this point of pride for your husband. Perhaps if you cut back on thrift shopping, you'd be able to gracefully accept his gifts without it hurting your pocketbook. I'm sure he appreciates your careful ways, but that's not the issue. Getting him to stop for the wrong reasons might be something you would regret.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My grandma lives in our town, and we try to help her out, as she is getting old. I don't mind housework, but when it comes to shopping, I can't be patient. She has to look at each label and compare prices, and I just want to throw stuff in the cart! I feel angry and frustrated by the time we are done. How can I speed her up or change how I react? I am 23. — W.L.

Dear W.L.: It is great you are able to spend time with your grandma and help her around the house. That's probably easier because you have more autonomy when it comes to the chores — doing things at your own pace. But when you get to the grocery store, you feel the frustrations a lot of people do — some of us don't enjoy the place in the best of circumstances. Having to go at your grandmother's pace is cramping your style. But since it's easier to change ourselves than another person — especially one who is old, set in her ways and burdened by failing faculties — you will need to call upon your own resources to change.

It might help to go through her pantry after a shopping trip and write the items she buys every week. It might make things easier. Make a master list by location, so when you get to the store you can just find the item and put it in the cart. With the rest of your time, why not engage your grandma in conversation? She may be so focused on labels and prices because she doesn't have anything else to occupy her thoughts. Enjoy her.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 2
♥ J 10 9 8 5 3
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A

WEST
♠ J 5 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A 9 5
♣ K 9 5 2

EAST
♠ Q 8 6 4
♥ 6
♦ J 10 8 4
♣ Q 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A 10 7
♥ A K Q
♦ K 2
♣ J 10 7 6 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♦ Dble 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♥

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Famous Hand
This deal was played in the 1976 World Bridge Olympiad in the match between Turkey and Denmark. And quite a remarkable hand it proved to be when Danish stars Steen Moeller and Stig Werdelin combined their talents on a super defense to defeat four hearts.

Moeller began South's undoing by leading a trump. Declarer took the queen, led a club to the ace and returned a diamond, on which East played the ten, South the king and West the ace.

West led another trump, continuing his assault on South's trumps. Declarer took the king, ruffed a club in dummy and returned a diamond. East bravely followed low, enabling West to win with the nine and lead a third round of trumps.

Thanks to this inspired defense, South could not ruff a diamond in his hand to score a 10th trick. The remaining play was anticlimactic, even though the Danes had to pass two more hurdles to accomplish their mission. This was the position after South took the ace of hearts:

North
♠ K 9 2
♥ J 10
♦ 7

West
♠ J 5 3
♥ 5
♣ K 9

East
♠ Q 8 6
♥ Q J
♣ Q

South
♠ A 10 7
♥ J 10 7

South led the jack of clubs, and West correctly followed low. Declarer ruffed in dummy and led the jack of trumps, on which East made the crucial discard of a spade to put the contract down one.

At 40 of the 44 tables where the deal was played, the final contract was in hearts, but Moeller and Werdelin were the only pair to hold declarer to nine tricks!

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 8 | | 2 | 6 | | | |
| 3 | | | | | 9 | | | 5 |
| | | | | 6 | | 7 | 4 | |
| 9 | | | | 5 | 7 | 8 | | |
| | | | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| | 2 | 6 | 4 | | | | | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | | 5 | | | | | |
| 1 | | 4 | | | | | | 8 |
| | 6 | 9 | | | 3 | 4 | | |

Difficulty Level ★ 11/28

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/28

Cryptoquip

G Z O F E Z H D Y K Z E L S O B D K
H D K V D X S C H H N Z B Z H N S E J S L
B D V Y A I X Z G Z O D I Z J X C X X K F :
D A D Z O D H Y S A S O D H Y S A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE BILL OF MICROSOFT OFTEN LIFTS HEAVY WEIGHTS, EVERYONE WILL CALL HIM THE BURLY GATES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Cambridge sch.
4 Tweak the Constitution network
9 Letterman's airport
12 Fuss dieters
13 Alamo hero with a knife named for him
14 Feedbag morsel
15 Part
17 Biz deg.
18 Commercials
19 Quartz variety
21 Baked potato's skin
24 Liniment target
25 Swelled head
26 Stitch
28 Esteem
31 Simple arithmetic
33 Sinbad's bird
35 — St. Vincent Millay
- DOWN**
36 Come to a point
38 Bankroll
40 Charged bit
41 Brewery products
43 New Jersey airport
45 OK for dieters
47 Parisian pal
48 Boxer Muhammad
49 ENIAC and its successors
54 Life story, for short
55 Judge, at times
56 Caustic solution
- DOWN**
57 Male offspring
58 Logic
59 Doctor's due
DOWN
1 Buddy
2 Altar affirmative
3 Cruise or Selleck
4 Homes
5 Dr. Frankenstein's creation
6 Female sheep
7 Martial arts mercenary
8 Remove (from)
9 Digests of a sort
11 Movie pig
11 Celebri
16 Neighbor of Afgh.
20 Oxford, e.g.
21 Make jokes
22 Water (Sp.)
23 Chum
27 "Holy moley!"
29 — about (approximately)
30 Hierarchy level
32 Narcissist's love
34 Finger food
37 Does a double-take
39 Coy
42 Emporium
44 Humor
45 Apprehends
46 Hodgepodge
50 60 sec.
51 Sprite
52 "Catcher in the —"
53 Witness

Solution time: 27 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | G | J | A | M | S | U | P | R | A |
| A | L | E | A | D | A | A | R | I | E | L |
| V | E | E | D | O | L | L | I | L | E | V |
| O | P | S | A | R | I | E | S | | | |
| C | H | E | Z | N | A | G | W | O | V | E |
| | | | I | T | S | S | L | A | V | E |
| V | I | O | L | A | | | E | L | A | T |
| A | C | A | C | I | A | S | A | T | | |
| S | E | T | H | W | E | E | Z | A | N | Y |
| | | | M | O | R | A | L | B | O | A |
| D | A | L | A | I | L | A | M | A | R | O |
| E | V | E | R | S | A | D | A | S | H | |
| B | E | S | E | T | | | | | | |

Saturday's answer 11-28

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | 13 | | | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | | | | 17 | | |
| | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | 20 | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | | | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 | | | 32 | | | 33 | 34 | | 35 | | |
| 36 | | | 37 | | | 38 | 39 | | 40 | | |
| | | | 41 | | | 42 | 43 | | 44 | | |
| 45 | 46 | | | | | 47 | | | | | |
| 48 | | | 49 | | | 50 | | | 51 | 52 | 53 |
| 54 | | | 55 | | | | | | 56 | | |
| 57 | | | 58 | | | | | | 59 | | |